



II. Project Abstract

Briefly (500 words maximum) describe the proposed project clearly and concisely using the space provided.

New Albany-Floyd County School Corporation (NAFCS) proposes to use the Learning Technologies Grant to align with the State Vision Plan to ensure academic achievement for students. The grant would assist us in developing and implementing effective school wide reading programs for students identified to be reading below grade level. We believe purchasing Scholastic's System 44 will allow us to consistently implement high quality instruction within Tier II and III of the district Intervention model by allowing for focused small group instruction that is differentiated based on student needs. The program also allows for use of student performance data to guide instruction and allocate instructional resources. Additionally, the technology component of the Scholastic program provides a resource for interventions for struggling readers.

NAFCS has considered the components needed to develop and implement quality interventions for struggling students. We recognize leadership is at the core of addressing the program and that leaders must ensure teachers receive high quality professional development in core programs and assessment tools. Further, an evidence based core curriculum must be in place that allows for a common language among teachers within and across grade levels, provides for consistent instructional delivery, and supports instructional sequence of skill presentation and teaching/learning strategies. NAFCS is currently in year 2 of our curriculum mapping initiative. We believe that a strong foundation for delivering core instruction is essential to meeting the needs of all students. NAFCS is currently working with the Indiana Department of Education to acquire M-Class and Acuity to support our efforts to put an assessment and progress monitoring tool in place. When students are identified as needing interventions outside of the core, NAFCS is proposing to implement System 44 to meet the unique needs of at-risk students.

Ted Hasselbring, Vanderbilt University, has published a considerable number of articles referencing the need to implement a technology based intervention program for struggling readers. NAFCS curriculum team members have had the opportunity to meet with the Vanderbilt Research team and discuss methods for providing quality reading intervention to students who are currently reading below grade level. System 44 is designed so that the teacher, technology, and texts work together to deliver highly engaging comprehensive and research-based instructional content to struggling readers. System 44 is "intelligent software" that collects data based on individual responses and adjusts instruction to meet each student's needs. The research-based instructional sequence offers students continuous support and immediate feedback at every level. This feedback is non-judgmental, private and encouraging allowing students to practice at every level they need without embarrassment.

A recent study (Wright 2005) suggests that "the quality of a school as a learning community can be measured by how effectively it addresses the needs of struggling students." New Albany-Floyd County believes the Learning Technology Grant will allow a unique opportunity to address the needs of our struggling students by implementing technology and a media enhanced component into our reading programs for students in Tier II and III of our intervention model. Ultimately, we believe by improving literacy skills in struggling readers New Albany-Floyd County will qualify for Race to the Top Dollars.